

The following is submitted with respect to the Commission to be used in consideration while making the decision as to eliminating the Morse Code requirement for Amateur Radio Licensing in the United States jurisdiction as stated in WT Docket 05-235.

The elimination of the Morse code requirement for the entry class and intermediate class of amateur radio is not an issue with me. Retaining the requirement to copy Morse code for the highest class amateur radio license must be done for the following reasons.

Morse code is a tradition for licensing radio amateurs and the tradition should be maintained for the highest class.

The highest class amateur radio license should be able to communicate using the most basic and reliable form of radio transmission. In an emergency, even if the modulation portion of a transmitter is inoperative, one can send Morse code using only the microphone transmit switch and get a message through.

The statement in the NPRM page 11, III Discussion, section 19 states that no demonstration is required for voice or digital technologies so no demonstration should be required for Morse code.

Demonstration is not required but knowledge is by answering written questions about the other forms of communication, which I will discuss later. The only method to insure that a person has knowledge of Morse code is to have them demonstrate that knowledge using a practical test.

Other Federal licensing agencies such as the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) still require demonstration of basic skills that may be never used. To receive a pilot's license one must demonstrate to a flight examiner that he/she can recover from various stalls even if the aircraft that is being flown is virtually stall-proof. They must also demonstrate a basic skill of navigation even if the pilot is using electronic navigation aids such as GPS, VOR, TACAN and ILS equipment. Basic Morse code should be a requirement for the Amateur Extra amateur radio license.

Those amateurs licensed today do not demonstrate anything other than their ability to memorize answers to predetermined questions. Very little is learned by doing so and this is verified by the Commissions own recalling many individuals for re-testing from time to time. One need only listen to some of the discussions, on the air of the very basic technical requirements to know that the Basis and Purpose section of part 97 has not been complied with

The real winners of this debate will be those who make a money from Amateur Radio if the Morse code is removed completely from the requirements to hold the Amateur Extra License and the pool of those mentioned in 97.1, Basis and Purpose will disappear.